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unable to devote so much attention to scientific pursuits as he desired. He was also a member of the Philharmonic and other musical societies. For several years he was musical editor of the periodical *Evening Hours.*

GEORGE CREASER, the fourth son of Francis and Elizabeth Creaser, was born at Scampstone Lodge, near Walton, on February 25, 1802. The first six or seven years of his life he spent at Scampstone; the family then removed to Milnsbridge, near Huddersfield, his father becoming the steward and surveyor of Sir J. Radcliffe. When a boy his health completely gave way. Up to the age of eighteen he manifested no signs of what he was likely to be; but one of his elder brothers, William Creaser, having begun to devote his leisure hours to making telescopes, George joined him in this work, and began the study of Optics and Astronomy, which he steadily pursued. He married, about 1830, Miss Turner, of Selby, who died about eight years afterwards. He then gave up his whole time to the manufacture of telescopes, microscopes, &c., and continued to do so till his death. Few men have done so much work of this kind, especially with such simple tools. He died at Meltham, near Huddersfield, on April 21, 1879. He was elected a Fellow of the Society on February 13, 1874.

HENRY MORGAN EARBERY CROFTON, eldest son of the Rev. Henry William Crofton, of Inchinappa House, Ashford, County Wicklow, Ireland, succeeded to the considerable family estates on the death of his father.

He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and at an early age showed a decided taste for practical astronomy; and shortly after the completion of his University career provided himself with an 8-inch Equatoreal by Cooke, of York, and other astronomical instruments.

He resided until his early and untimely death upon his Inchinappa estate, and took considerable interest in its cultivation and improvement.

For many years he owned a yacht, in which, during the summer, he annually attended the regattas in the South and West of England and on the Irish coasts.

He married the daughter of Major Townsend, of Wicklow, County Inspector. His wife, by whom he left a young and numerous family, survived him only by a very brief period.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on January 10, 1863.

SOLOMON MOSES DRACH was born in Bury Street, St. Mary Axe, London, in 1835. He went to a school kept by Mr. Cutler, in Devonshire Street, and afterwards to one kept by Mr. Tait, where he remained two years. His own name was Solomon

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Moses, and he took the name of Drach from his aunt's husband, Mr. Liepman Woolf Drach, who (after his aunt's death) left him his fortune. He married, on August 4, 1841, his cousin Rebecca, the daughter of another aunt who had also been adopted by Mr. L. W. Drach. His uncle died on April 18, 1840, and he continued his business of a commission agent till the death of his aunt, which occurred on June 9, 1847, when he devoted himself to study, being chiefly interested in mathematics, astronomy, and biblical and antiquarian subjects.

Mr. Drach's first published paper appeared in the *Philosophical Magazine* for 1839, and was entitled "On the use of Barometrical Formulæ for determining the Heights of Mountains." He published also, in the *Philosophical Magazine* for 1849, several papers on mathematical questions relating to the description of epicyclical curves. These also had reference to, and contained some account of, the epicycloidal curves which Mr. Perigal had traced geometrically in 1835, and by continuous circular motions in 1840. Mr. Drach published numerous short papers in the *Monthly Notices* of the Society. He was also a frequent contributor to the library of the Society, having presented at different times many volumes, chiefly old astronomical and mathematical works; and after the removal of the Society to Burlington House he passed much of his time in the library, working at his favourite subjects. Some years ago he presented to the Royal Society two large volumes containing resolutions of numbers into sums of squares and cubes; and he devoted much of his time to work of a similar kind. He died, at 23 Upper Barnsbury Street, Islington, on February 8, 1879. He was elected a Fellow of the Society on May 14, 1841.

Mr. Drach was a member of the old Mathematical Society, and became a life Fellow of this Society when the former was merged into it in 1845.

Richard Farley was for a long period connected with the *Nautical Almanac* Office, first as an ordinary computer and afterwards as First Assistant. He was one of a number of young computers collected together in 1831 by Lieutenant Stratford, Superintendent of the *Nautical Almanac*, for the calculation of the first volume of the enlarged series of that work, according to the recommendations drawn up by a Committee of the Royal Astronomical Society in November of the preceding year. Though little more than twenty years of age, Mr. Farley had at this time already attained a good reputation as an accurate computer, and he was at once intrusted by Lieutenant Stratford with the calculations of the places of the Sun and the lunar distances for the *Almanac* for 1834, as well as with the general examination of most of the computations. After the resignation in 1837 of Mr. Woolhouse, First Assistant, Mr. Farley was chosen to succeed him in that important and responsible office, which he filled more

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